

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-18 (canceled)

Claim 19. (currently amended) A joint prosthesis comprising:

a stem configured to be implanted within a bone, the stem including a first coupler bore therein with an interior wall portion which, when viewed in cross-section, extends in a line within a first bore portion from a proximal surface portion of the stem to a ledge which defines a portion of the bore narrower than the first bore portion, wherein the ledge is located between the first bore portion and a second bore portion;

a joint component having a bearing surface and defining a second coupler bore;

a mounting element having (i) a proximal portion received within the second coupler bore of the joint component in a friction fit manner, and (ii) a spherical articulating portion located within the first bore portion; and

a fastener extending from within the spherical articulating portion to within the second bore portion and configured to force the spherical articulating portion outwardly from an axis of the first coupling bore and against the interior wall portion.

Claim 20. (previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 19, wherein:

the spherical articulating portion includes an internal bore and an internal bearing surface within the internal bore;

the second bore portion is threaded; and

the fastener includes a threaded portion threadingly engaged with the threaded second bore portion and a bearing portion for bearing upon the internal bearing surface of the spherical articulating portion when the fastener is threadingly engaged with the second bore portion, thereby forcing the spherical articulating portion against the interior wall portion.

Claim 21. (previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 20, wherein the internal bore of the spherical articulating portion extends completely through the spherical articulating portion.

Claim 22. (previously presented) The joint prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the second coupler bore of the joint component defines a female taper component, and the proximal portion of the mounting element defines a male taper component configured to mate with the female taper component.

Claim 23. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the stem is configured to be implanted within a humerus.

Claim 24. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the bearing surface of the joint component is configured to mate with a glenoid component.

Claim 25. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 19, wherein the spherical articulating portion is configured for press-fit engagement with the interior wall portion.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 25, wherein the first bore portion is tapered from the proximal surface portion of the stem to the ledge around the periphery of the first bore portion.

Claim 27. (currently amended) A prosthesis comprising:

a stem configured to be implanted within a bone, the stem defining a first coupler bore;

a joint component having a bearing surface and defining a second coupler bore;
and

a mounting element having (i) a proximal portion received within the second coupler bore of the joint component in a friction fit manner, and (ii) a spherical articulating portion received within the first coupler bore of the stem,

wherein the stem includes a proximal surface that defines a coupler opening through which the mounting element extends, and the stem, when viewed in a cross-section, further includes an interior wall portion located within the first coupler bore that

extends inwardly toward a longitudinal axis of the first coupler bore from the proximal surface in a straight line, and

wherein the spherical articulating portion of the mounting element touches the interior wall portion at a point along the straight line.

Claim 28. (currently amended) The prosthesis of claim 27, wherein:

the mounting element defines a passageway extending therethrough; and

a proximal part of a ~~the~~ fastener is located within the passageway, and a distal part of the fastener contacts the stem.

Claim 29. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 27, wherein the second coupler bore of the joint component defines a female taper component, and the proximal portion of the mounting element defines a male taper component configured to mate with the female taper component.

Claim 30. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 27, wherein the stem is configured to be implanted within a humerus.

Claim 31. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 27, wherein the bearing surface of the joint component is configured to mate with a glenoid component.

Claim 32. (currently amended) A prosthesis comprising:

a stem configured to be implanted within a bone, the stem including an internal bore;

a joint component having a bearing surface;

a mounting element configured for engagement with the joint component and having a spherical articulating portion received within the internal bore of the stem, the spherical articulating portion configured for press-fit engagement with the internal bore such that the spherical articulating portion touches the internal bore around substantially an entire perimeter of the bore defined by the intersection of a plane with the internal bore; and

a fastener having a first portion coupled with the spherical articulating portion of the mounting element and a second portion coupled with the stem ~~for coupling the mounting element with the stem.~~

Claim 33. (currently amended) The prosthesis of claim 32, wherein the mounting element comprises an internal bore and the fastener extends within the internal bore of the mounting element.

Claim 34. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 32, wherein the internal bore comprises a tapered portion, and the perimeter of the bore is defined by the intersection of the plane with the tapered portion of the bore.

Claim 35. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 34, wherein the tapered portion extends from an external surface portion of the stem.

Claim 36. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 35, wherein the internal bore further comprises a threaded portion and the fastener is threadingly engaged with the threaded portion of the internal bore.

Claim 37. (previously presented) The prosthesis of claim 36, wherein the mounting element further comprises a bearing portion within a cavity and the fastener is configured to bear upon the bearing portion.